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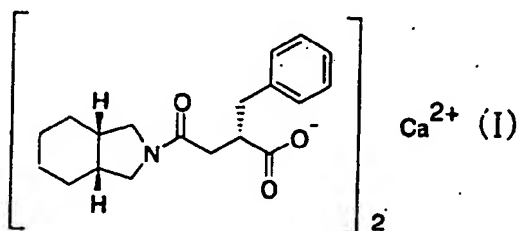
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(54) **IMMEDIATE RELEASE MEDICINAL COMPOSITIONS FOR ORAL USE**

(57) The present invention relates to an immediate release oral pharmaceutical composition which comprises as an active ingredient the calcium salt of a benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula:



or its hydrate, which is useful as an agent for the treatment of diabetes.

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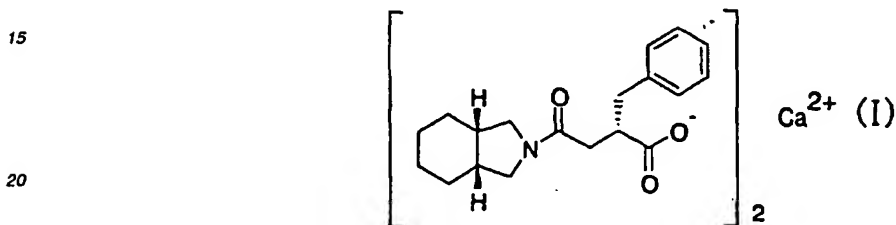
Description

Technical field

5 [0001] The present invention relates to an immediate release oral pharmaceutical composition useful as an agent for the treatment of diabetes.

Background of the Invention

10 [0002] The calcium salt of a benzy succinic acid derivative (chemical name: (2S)-2-benzyl-3-(cis-hexahydro-2-isindolylcarbonyl)propionic acid) represented by the formula:



25 or its hydrate, which is an active ingredient in the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention, has a remarkable lowering action on blood sugar and is known as a compound useful as an agent for the treatment of diabetes (Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 356459/1992).

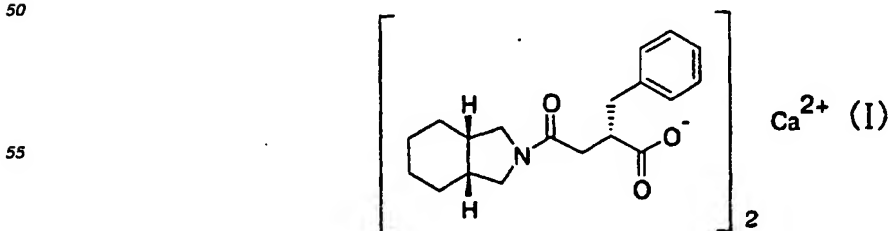
30 [0003] Sulfonylurea agents (SU agents) such as glibenclamide, gliclazide and the like which have been frequently used for the treatment of diabetes take a long time to exert their effects and have persisting effects for several hours, so that it has been pointed out that the risk of hypoglycemic symptoms increases conversely. For example, when an SU agent is taken at a dose for sufficiently suppressing postprandial hyperglycemia, the problem that hypoglycemia is caused between meals cannot be avoided. However, since the effects of the present compound persist only temporarily, it is expected to be a therapeutic agent for hyperglycemia which corrects only a postprandial hyperglycemic condition without causing a hypoglycemic condition between meals.

35 [0004] Rapid absorption after taking a drug in addition to early excretion of an active component from the blood is required to correct only a postprandial hyperglycemic condition without causing a hypoglycemic condition between meals. Thus, the development of immediate release preparations is needed in postprandial hyperglycemia treatment, wherein disintegration of the pharmaceutical composition and dissolution of the active ingredient are excellent. Generally, it is necessary for immediate release preparations usually to have an ability of about 75% or more drug release (drug dissolution) within 20 minutes after taking the drug (Iyakuin no Kaihatsu [Development of Medicines] Vol. 11, pp. 65-77, published by Hirokawa Shoten). It is a concern that the present compound is problematic in dissolution since it is poorly soluble in water. Therefore, in order to solve the problem, early development of excellent immediate release preparations has been greatly desired.

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Disclosure of the Invention

45 [0005] The present invention relates to an immediate release oral pharmaceutical composition which comprises as an active ingredient the calcium salt of a benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula:



or its hydrate.

[0006] The invention relates to an immediate release oral pharmaceutical composition which comprises as an active ingredient the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the above formula (I) or its hydrate, characterized by comprising at least silicon dioxide.

[0007] The invention relates to an immediate release oral pharmaceutical composition which comprises as an active ingredient the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the above formula (I) or its hydrate, characterized by comprising at least partly pregelatinized starch.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0008] Figure 1 is a graph showing the dissolution of various tablets described in Examples 1 and 2 and in Reference Example 1 in which the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative of the above formula (I) is an active ingredient. The vertical and the horizontal axes denote percents of dissolution (%) of the active ingredient and time periods (minutes) elapsed after the start of the tests, respectively.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

[0009] The present inventors have intensively studied to find immediate release oral pharmaceutical compositions comprising as an active ingredient the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the above formula (I) or its hydrate, which have excellent disintegration and dissolution and are therefore useful as agents for the treatment of diabetes. As a result, it was advantageously found that pharmaceutical compositions prepared by adding at least silicon dioxide or partly pregelatinized starch thereto enhance the disintegration and improve remarkably the dissolution, and thereby the present invention has been completed.

[0010] In immediate release oral pharmaceutical compositions comprising as an active ingredient the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the above formula (I) or its hydrate, even when tablets are prepared according to a dry method (direct compressing method), by which good disintegration is generally obtained, using disintegrants usually used such as sodium carboxymethyl starch and low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose, no preparations having good dissolution were obtained. The preparations obtained delayed the dissolution and have abnormally low percentages of dissolution. However, when the tablets were prepared by adding silicon dioxide, which is usually used as a lubricant, excellent dissolution was surprisingly observed. For example, rapid dissolution was observed just after the start of the dissolution test using the first fluid of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia, and the maximum dissolution rate was also extremely high.

[0011] Moreover, even when the tablets were prepared according to a wet method (wet granule-compressing method), which is generally inferior in disintegration, the silicon dioxide-added preparation exhibited surprisingly higher dissolution efficiency compared to the preparations in which sodium carboxymethyl starch or low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose, which is usually used as a disintegrant, was added. For example, rapid dissolution was observed just after the start of the dissolution test using the first fluid of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia, and the maximum dissolution rate was also extremely high. Furthermore, when tablets were prepared according to the wet methods, the tablets in which sodium carboxymethyl starch or low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose, which is usually used as a disintegrant, was added were not satisfactory because the dissolution rates were still low even after considerable time periods had elapsed, and particular differences were observed in dissolution. On the contrary, when tablets were prepared according to the wet method employing the addition of partly pregelatinized starch as a disintegrant, good dissolution was observed as in the case with the addition of silicon dioxide. The preparation in which carmellose was added as a disintegrant exhibited high dissolution efficiency as well as the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention, but it turned the color of the preparation pale yellow due to incompatible combination with the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the above formula (I) as the active ingredient. In addition, it was undesirable because its stability is not good due to decomposition of the active ingredient.

[0012] That is, the present invention relates to an immediate release oral pharmaceutical composition which comprises as an active ingredient the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the above formula (I) or its hydrate, characterized by comprising at least silicon dioxide or partly pregelatinized starch, wherein it shows remarkable disintegration and dissolution of the active ingredient without incompatible combination with the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the above formula (I) and is excellent for long term storage.

[0013] The calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the above formula (I) or its hydrate comprised as an active ingredient in the present invention can be prepared by the methods described in the references, similar methods thereto or the like (for example, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 356459/1992).

[0014] Examples of silicon dioxide used for the present invention can include, but are not limited to, light anhydrous silicic acid, hydrated silicon dioxide and the like. The amount of silicon dioxide to be added is not limited but blending from 0.5 to 5% by weight based on the whole preparation is sufficient.

[0015] As partly pregelatinized starch used for the present invention, various degrees of pregelatinized starch can be used. For example, such partly pregelatinized starches include a commercially available partly pregelatinized starch [PCS (trademark)]. The amount of partly gelatinized starch to be added is not limited but blending from 5 to 20% by weight based on the whole preparation is sufficient.

[0016] The oral pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be used in various formulations, and typical formulations can include granules, fine granules, powders, tablets and capsules.

[0017] For example, granules, fine granules and powders can be prepared by conventional methods. Tablets can be prepared using granules or fine granules by conventional methods, or by directly granulating by a dry method (direct compressing method) by conventional methods. Capsules can be prepared by directly filling granules, fine granules or mixed powders in the capsules by conventional methods.

[0018] When the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are prepared, suitable additives for each preparation such as diluents, binders, surfactants, lubricants, glidants, coating materials, plasticizers, coloring agents, flavoring agents and the like can be further used as occasion demands. These additives are those which are usually used pharmaceutically, and any of them can be used so long as they do not affect adversely the dissolution of and combination with the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the above formula (I) or its hydrate.

[0019] Diluents can include, for example, cellulose or cellulose derivatives such as microcrystalline cellulose and the like; starch or starch derivatives such as corn starch, wheat starch, cyclodextrin and the like; sugar or sugar alcohol such as lactose, D-mannitol and the like; and inorganic diluents such as dried aluminum hydroxide gel, precipitated calcium carbonate, magnesium aluminometasilicate, dibasic calcium phosphate and the like.

[0020] Binders can include, for example, hydroxypropylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, povidone, dextrin, pullulane, hydroxypropyl starch, polyvinyl alcohol, scacia, agar, gelatin, tragacanth, macrogol and the like.

[0021] Surfactants can include, for example, sucrose esters of fatty acids, polyoxyl stearate, polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oil, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene glycol, sorbitan sesquioleate, sorbitan trioleate, sorbitan monostearate, sorbitan monopalmitate, sorbitan monoleaurate, polysorbate, glyceryl monostearate, sodium lauryl sulfate, lauromacrogol and the like.

[0022] Lubricants can include, for example, stearic acid, calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, talc and the like.

[0023] Glidants can include, for example, dried aluminium hydroxide gel, magnesium silicate and the like.

[0024] Coating materials can include, for example, hydroxy-propylmethylcellulose 2910, aminoalkyl methacrylate copolymer E, polyvinylacetal diethylaminoacetate, macrogol 6000, titanium oxide and the like.

[0025] Plasticizers can include, for example, triethyl citrate, triacetin, macrogol 6000 and the like.

[0026] The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are extremely stable, since neither change in their appearance and dissolution rate nor decomposition of their active ingredient is observed even after standing for 1 week under severe conditions of high temperature and humidity.

[0027] The features of the present invention are further described in detail in the following Reference Examples, Examples and Test Examples, but the present invention is not limited thereto.

Reference Example 1

[0028]

Active component	5.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	27.5 mg
Lactose	28.7 mg
Corn starch	10.0 mg
Low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose	3.0 mg
Calcium stearate	0.8 mg
[Total]	75.0 mg

[0029] After 412 g of microcrystalline cellulose, 430.5 g of lactose, 150.0 g of corn starch, 45.0 g of low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose (brand name: L-HPC/LH-11, produced by Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.) and 12.0 g of calcium stearate were mixed with 75.0 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 700 kg using a 6 mm diameter round-faced (5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Reference Example 2**[0030]**

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Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.0 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Carmellose	8.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	126.8 mg

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[0031] After 5.6 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose and 0.8 g of carmellose (brand name; NS-300 (trademark), produced by Gotoku Yakuhin Co., Ltd.) were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), 4 g of an aqueous solution of 6% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose (0.24 g as hydroxypropylcellulose) were added thereto. The mixture was granulated in a mortar, and the granules were passed through a screen after drying in a shell dryer to yield granules of 30 mesh (500 μ m) or less. Calcium stearate was mixed with the granules at 0.95%, and the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 km using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Reference Example 3

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[0032]

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Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.0 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Sodium carboxymethyl starch	8.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	126.8 mg

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[0033] After 5.6 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose and 0.8 g of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (brand name: Primogel [trademark], produced by Matsutani Chemical Co., Ltd.) were mixed with 2.2g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), 4 g of an aqueous solution of 6% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose (0.24 g as hydroxypropylcellulose) were added thereto. The mixture was granulated in a mortar, and the granules were passed through a screen after drying in a shell dryer to yield granules of 30 mesh (500 μ m) or less. Calcium stearate was mixed with the granules at 0.95%, and the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Reference Example 4**[0034]**

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Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.0 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose	8.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg

(continued)

[Total]	126.8 mg
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5 [0035] After 5.6 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose and 0.8 g of low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose (brand name; L-HPC/LH-11, produced by Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.) were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), 4 g of an aqueous solution of 6% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose (0.24 g as hydroxypropylcellulose) were added thereto. The mixture was granulated in a mortar, and the granules were passed through a screen after drying in a shell dryer to yield granules of 30 mesh (500 μ m) or less. Calcium stearate was mixed with the granules at 0.95%, and the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Reference Example 5

15 [0036]

Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.0 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose	8.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	126.8 mg

20 [0037] After 5.6 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose and 0.8 of low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose (brand name; L-HPC/LH-22, produced by Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.) were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), 4 g of an aqueous solution of 6% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose (0.24 g as hydroxypropylcellulose) were added thereto. The mixture was granulated in a mortar, and the granules were passed through a screen after drying in a shell dryer to yield granules of 30 mesh (500 μ m) or less. Calcium stearate was mixed with the granules at 0.95%, and the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Reference Example 6

40 [0038]

Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.0 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Partly pregelatinized starch	8.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	126.8 mg

45 [0039] After 5.6 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose, 0.8 g of partly pregelatinized starch (brand name: PCS [trademark], produced by Asahi Kasei Co., Ltd.), 0.24 g of hydroxypropylcellulose and 0.12 g of calcium stearate were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Reference Example 7

[0040]

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Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.0 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Sodium carboxymethyl starch	8.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	126.8 mg

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[0041] After 5.6 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose, 0.8 g of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (brand name: Primogel [trademark], produced by Matsutani Chemical Co., Ltd.), 0.24 g of hydroxypropylcellulose and 1.2 g of calcium stearate were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Reference Example 8

[0042]

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Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.0 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose	8.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	126.8 mg

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[0043] After 5.6 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose, 0.8 g of low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose (brand name; L--HPC/LH-11, produced by Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.), 0.24 g of hydroxypropylcellulose and 0.12 g of calcium stearate were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Reference Example 9

[0044]

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Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.0 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose	8.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	126.8 mg

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[0045] After 5.6 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose, 0.8 g of low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose (brand name; L-HPC/LH-22, produced by Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.), 0.24 g of hydroxypropylcellulose and 0.12 g of calcium stearate were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

cinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Example 1

[0046]

Active component	5.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	27.5 mg
Lactose	27.9 mg
Corn starch	10.0 mg
Low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose	3.0 mg
Calcium stearate	0.8 mg
Light anhydrous silicic acid	0.8 mg
[Total]	75.0 mg

[0047] After 275.0 g of microcrystalline cellulose, 279.0 g of lactose, 100.0 g of corn starch, 30.0 g of low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose (brand name: L-HPC/LH-11, produced by Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.), 8.0 g of calcium stearate and 8.0 g of light anhydrous silicic acid (brand name: Adsolider [trademark] 101, produced by Freund Industrial Co., Ltd.) were mixed with 50.0 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), the mixture was compressed with a pressure of about 700 kg by a tableting machine using a 6 mm diameter round-faced (5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Example 2

[0048]

Active component	5.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	27.5 mg
Lactose	27.3 mg
Corn starch	10.0 mg
Low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose	3.0 mg
Calcium stearate	0.8 mg
Light anhydrous silicic acid	1.4 mg
[Total]	75.0 mg

[0049] After 275.0 g of microcrystalline cellulose, 273.0 g of lactose, 100.0 g of corn starch, 30.0 g of low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose (brand name: L-HPC/LH-11, produced by Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.), 8.0 g of calcium stearate and 14.0 g of light anhydrous silicic acid (brand name: Adsolider (trademark) 101, produced by Freund Industrial Co., Ltd.) were mixed with 50.0 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), the mixture was compressed with a pressure of about 700 kg by a tableting machine using a 6 mm diameter round-faced (5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Example 3

[0050]

Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.0 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Partly pregelatinized starch	8.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg

(continued)

[Total]	126.8 mg
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5 [0051] After 5.6 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose and 0.8 g of partly pregelatinized starch (brand name: PCS [trademark], produced by Asahi Kasei Co., Ltd.) were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), 4 g of an aqueous solution of 6% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose (0.24 g as hydroxy-propylcellulose) were added thereto. The mixture was granulated in a mortar, and the granules were passed through a screen after drying in a shell dryer to yield granules of 30 mesh (500 μ m) or less. Calcium stearate was mixed with the granules at 0.95%, and the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Example 4

[0052]

Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	60.7 mg
Corn starch	26.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Light anhydrous silicic acid	1.3 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	126.8 mg

20 [0053] After 6.07 g of lactose, 2.6 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose and 0.13 g of light anhydrous silicic acid (brand name: Adsolider [trademark] 101, produced by Freund Industrial Co., Ltd.) were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), 4 g of an aqueous solution of 6% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose (0.24 g as hydroxypropylcellulose) were added thereto. The mixture was granulated in a mortar, and the granules were passed through a screen after drying in a shell dryer to yield granules of 30 mesh (500 μ m) or less. Calcium stearate was mixed with the granules at 0.95%, and the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Example 5

[0054]

Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	54.7 mg
Corn starch	24.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	13.2 mg
Partly pregelatinized starch	8.0 mg
Light anhydrous silicic acid	1.3 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.4 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	126.8 mg

40 [0055] After 5.47 g of lactose, 2.4 g of corn starch, 1.32 g of microcrystalline cellulose, 0.8 g of partly pregelatinized starch (brand name: PCS [trademark], produced by Asahi Kasei Co., Ltd) and 0.13 g of light anhydrous silicic acid (brand name: Adsolider [trademark] 101, produced by Freund Industrial Co., Ltd.) were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), 4 g of an aqueous solution of 6% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose (0.24 g as hydroxypropylcellulose) were added thereto. The mixture was granulated in a mortar, and the granules were passed through a screen after drying in a shell dryer

to yield granules of 30 mesh (500 μm) or less. Calcium stearate was mixed with the granules at 0.95%, and the mixture was compressed with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

5 Example 6

[0056]

Active component	22.0 mg
Lactose	56.9 mg
Corn starch	24.4 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	14.0 mg
Partly pregelatinized starch	9.0 mg
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.5 mg
Calcium stearate	1.2 mg
[Total]	130.0 mg

[0057] After 569 g of lactose, 244 g of corn starch, 140 g of microcrystalline cellulose and 90 g of partly gelatinized starch (brand name: PCT [trademark], Asahi Kasei Co., Ltd) were mixed with 2.2 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) (active component), 416.7 g of an aqueous solution of 6% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose (25 g as hydroxypropylcellulose) were added thereto. The mixture was granulated in a high shear mixer. The granules were dried using a fluidized-bed dryer and passed through a screen to yield granules of 30 mesh (50 μm) or less. Calcium stearate was mixed with the granules at 0.92%, and the mixture was tableted by a tableting machine with a pressure of 500 kg using a 7 mm diameter round-faced (9.5R) punch to prepare tablets of the above composition.

Test Example 1

30 Dissolution test (1)

[0058] For the tablets described in Examples 1 and 2 and Reference Example 1, the dissolution test (a quantitative method: HPLC, detection wave length: 220 nm) was carried out using 900 mL of the first fluid of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia at 50 rpm according to the paddle method, apparatus 2 of the dissolution test methods of the 13th revised Japanese Pharmacopoeia. From the results of these dissolution tests as shown in Figure 1, the tablets of Examples 1 and 2 showed much better dissolution than those of Reference Example 1.

Test Example 2

40 Dissolution test (2)

[0059] For the tablets described in Examples 3 to 6 and Reference Examples 2 to 9, the dissolution test (a quantitative method: UV absorbance determination, detection wave length: 205 nm) was carried out using 900 mL of the first fluid of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia at 50 rpm according to the paddle method, apparatus 2 of the dissolution test methods of the 13th revised Japanese Pharmacopoeia. From the results of these dissolution tests as shown in Figure 2, the tablets of Examples 3 to 6 showed much better dissolution than those of Reference Examples 3 to 9.

Test Example 3

50 Compatibility test

[0060] One gram of each of the following various additives was mixed with 1 g of the dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzy succinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I), and the mixture was placed for two weeks under the conditions of temperature at 60°C and relative humidity of 80%. Then its appearance was observed.

Additives:

[0061]

- 5 Partly pregelatinized starch (brand name: PCS [trademark], produced by Asahi Kasei Co., Ltd)
 Carmellose (brand name: NS-300 [trademark], produced by Gotoku Yakuhin Co., Ltd)
 Carmellose calcium (brand name: ECG-505 [trademark], produced by Gotoku Yakuhin Co., Ltd)
 Croscarmellose sodium (brand name: Ac-Di-Sol, produced by Asahi Kasei Co., Ltd)
 10 Light anhydrous Silicic acid (brand name: Adsolider [trademark] 101, Freund Industrial Co., Ltd.)

[0062] The results are shown in the following Table 1. The dihydrate of the calcium salt of the benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula (I) was stable in combination with partly pregelatinized starch or light anhydrous silicic acid, but caused an incompatible combination with carmellose, carmellose calcium or croscarmellose sodium.

Table 1

Additives	Appearance
Partly pregelatinized starch	No change
Carmellose	Colored with pale yellow
20 Carmellose calcium	Colored with faint yellow
Croscarmellose sodium	Colored with faint yellow
Light anhydrous silicic acid	No change

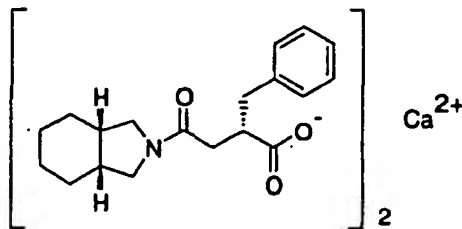
25 Test Example 4

Stability test

- 30 [0063] The tablets described in Examples 3 and 4 and Reference Example 2 were placed for 1 weeks under conditions of temperature at 60°C and relative humidity of 80%, and then the appearance of the tablets, amounts of their decomposition and dissolution time periods using the first fluid of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia were examined. As a result, the tablets described in Reference Example 2 containing carmellose changed color of appearance into faint yellow indicating an increase of decomposition. However, the tablets described in Examples 3 and 4 using respectively partly
 35 pregelatinized starch and light anhydrous silicic acid did not show any change, and their dissolution time periods did not change and consequently the tablets were extremely stable.

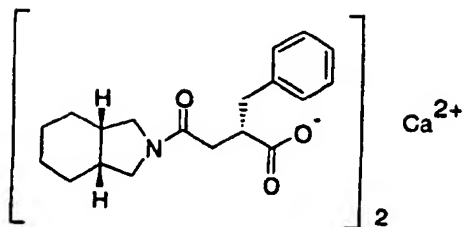
Claims

- 40 1. An immediate release oral pharmaceutical composition which comprises as an active ingredient the calcium salt of a benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula:



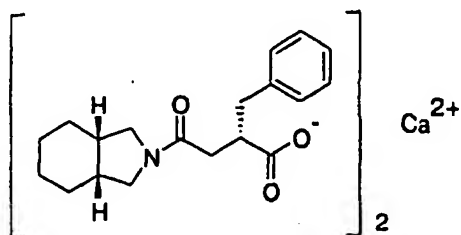
55 or its hydrate.

2. The immediate release oral pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1 which comprises as an active ingredient the calcium salt of a benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula:



or its hydrate, **characterized by** at least comprising silicon dioxide.

3. The immediate release oral pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises as an active ingredient the calcium salt of a benzylsuccinic acid derivative represented by the formula



or its hydrate, **characterized by** at least comprising partly pregelatinized starch

Figure 1

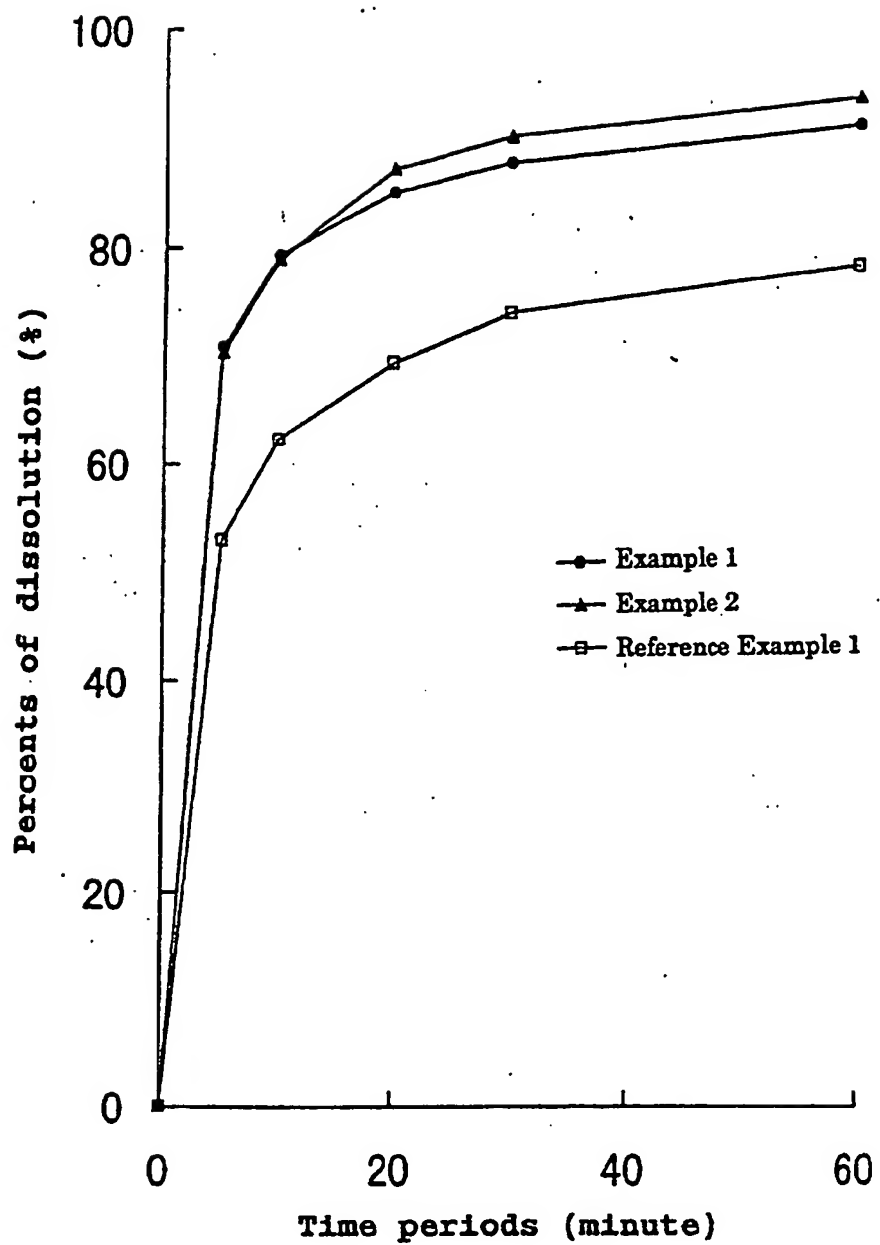
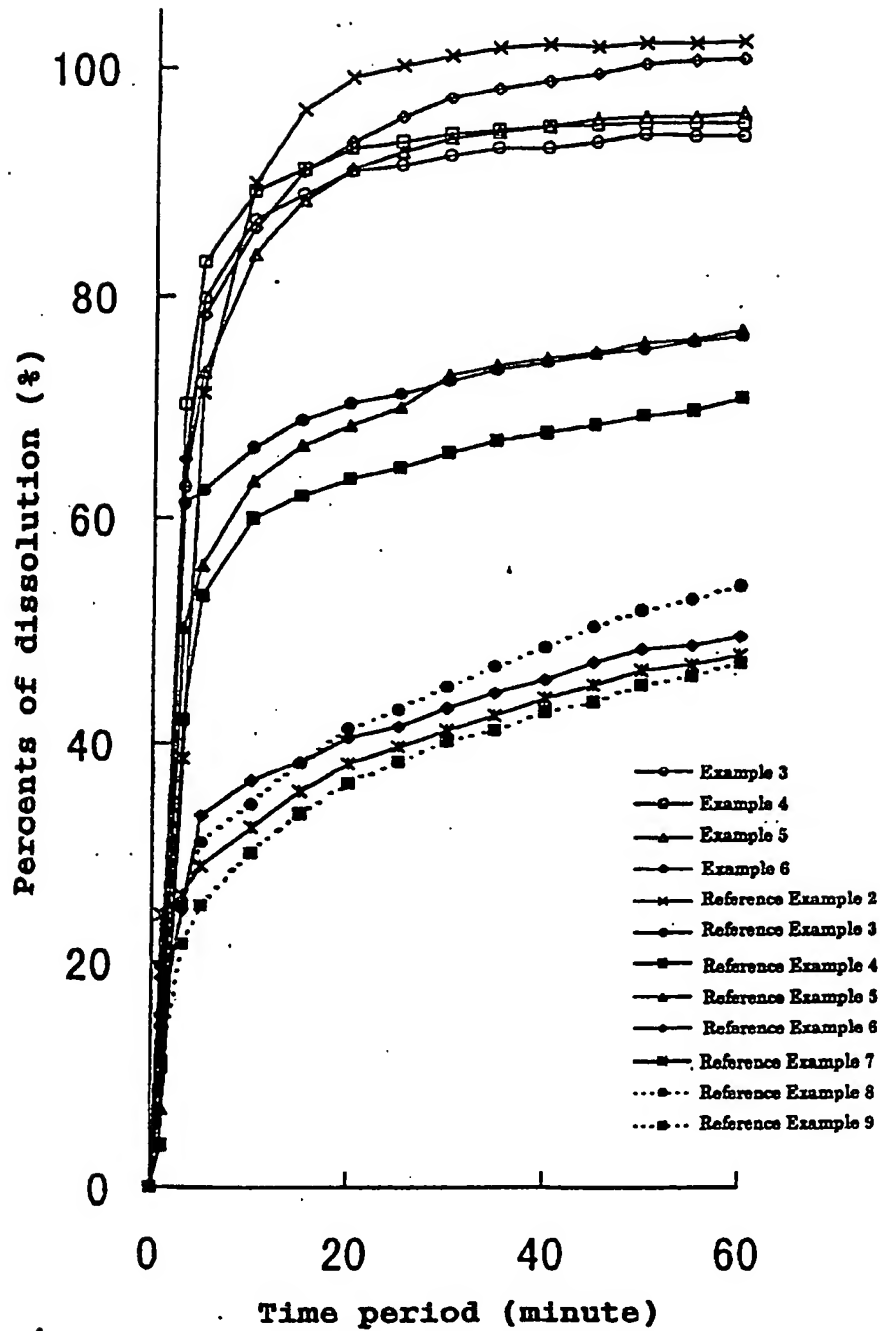


Figure 2



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP99/02669

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl ⁶ A61K31/40, 9/20 // C07D209/44 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl ⁶ A61K31/40, 9/20, 47/00, C07D209/44 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) CA, REGISTRY (STN)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	JP, 4-356459, A (Kissei Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.), 10 December, 1992 (10. 12. 92), Full text & EP, 507534, A1 & JP, 4-330055, A & AU, 9212809, A & CA, 2062877, A & NO, 9201200, A & DK, 9200415, A & US, 5202335, A	1 2, 3
X Y	KIKUCHI Masatoshi, "Rapidly acting oral hypoglycemic agents", Sogo Rinsho, (1996), 45(12), p.2765-2771	1 2, 3
X Y	OHNOTA Hideki et al., "A rapid- and short-acting hypoglycemic agent KAD-1229 improves post-prandial hyperglycemia and diabetic complications in streptozotocin-induced non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus rats", Jpn. J. Pharmacol., (1996), 71(4), p.315-23	1 2, 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 8 June, 1999 (08. 06. 99)		Date of mailing of the international search report 22 June, 1999 (22. 06. 99)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office		Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP99/02669

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	KINUKAWA Mayumi et al., "Effect of a non-sulphonylurea hypoglycaemic agent, KAD-1229 on hormone secretion in the isolated perfused pancreas of the rat", Br. J. Pharmacol., (1996), 117(8), p.1702-6	1 2, 3
X Y	OHNOTA Hideki et al., "Normalization of impaired glucose tolerance by the short-acting hypoglycemic agent calcium (2S)-2-benzyl-3-(cis-hexahydro-2-isoindolinylicarbonyl)propionate dihydrate (KAD-1229) in non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus rats", Can. J. Physiol. Pharmacol., (1995), 73(1), p.1-6	1 2, 3
X Y	OHNOTA Hideki et al., "Novel rapid- and short-acting hypoglycemic agent, a calcium(2s)-2-benzyl-3-(cis-hexahydro-2-isoindolinylicarbonyl) propionate (KAD-1229) that acts on the sulphonylurea receptor: Comparison of effects between KAD-1229 and gliclazide", J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther., (1994), 269(2), p.489-95	1 2, 3
Y	JP, 7-76516, A (Toyobo Co., Ltd.), 20 March, 1995 (20. 03. 95), Full text (Family: none)	2, 3
Y	JP, 5-139973, A (Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.), 8 June, 1993 (08. 06. 93), Full text (Family: none)	2, 3
Y	JP, 63-115815, A (Mitsubishi Chemical Industries Ltd.), 20 May, 1988 (20. 05. 88), Full text & WO, 88/03023, A1 & JP, 63-119426, A	2, 3

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